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AN

ACCOUNT

OF THE

Tryals, Examination and Condemnation,

OF

ELINOR SHAW,

AND

MARY PHILLIP'S

(Two notorious Witches,)

At Northampton Assizes, on Wednesday the 7th of March 1705. for Bewitching a Woman, and two children, Tormenting them in a sad and lamentable manner till they Dyed.

With an Account of their strange Confessions, about their Familiarity with the Devil, and how they made a wicked Contract with him, to be revenged on several Persons, by Bewitching their Cattel to Death, &c. and several other strange and amazing Particulars.

Ralph Davis.

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1705.

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Elinor Shaw, and *Mary Phillips*, two notorious Witches, &c.

ON Wednesday the 7th of this Instant March 1705, being the second day of the Assizes held at Northampton: One Elinor Shaw, and Mary Phillips, (two notorious Witches) were brought into Court, and there Arraign'd at the Bar, upon several Indictments of Witchcraft; particularly for

for Bewitching and Tormenting in a Diabolical manner, the Wife of Robert Wise of Benefield, in the said County till she Dyed, as also for Killing by Witchcraft, and wicked Facination, one Elizabeth Gorham of Glapthorn, a Child of about four Years of Age in the said County of Northampton; as also for Bewitching to Death, one Charles Ireland of Southwick in the said County; to which Indictment the two said Prisoners pleaded not Guilty, and thereupon put themselves upon their Tryals as followeth.

The first Evidence against them, was one Widdow Peak, who deposed, that she with two other Women, undertook to watch the said Prisoners after they had been Apprehended, and that about Nidnight, there appeared in the Room a little white Thing, about the bigness of a Cat, which sat upon Mary Phillip's Lap, at which time she heard her, the said Mary Phillips say, then pointing to Elinor Shaw, that she was the Witch that Kill'd Mrs. Wise, by Roasting her Effiges in Wax, sticking it full of Pinns, and till it was all wasted, and all this she affirm'd was done the same Night Mrs. Wise Dyed in a sad and languishing Condition. Mrs Evans, deposed, that when Mrs. Wise first was taken Ill, that she saw Elinor Shaw look out at the Window, (it being opposite to her House) at which time, she heard her say, I have done

done her Business now I am sure ; this Night I'll send the old Devil a New Years Gift, (next day being New - years Day) and well knowing this Elinor Shaw to be a reputed Witch, was so much concern'd at her Words, that she went then to see how Mrs Wise did, where she found her Tormented with such Pains, as exceeding those of a Women in Travel, which encreased to such a terrible Degree, that she Expired about 12 of the Clock, to the great amazment of all her Neighbours.

Another Evidence made Oath, that Elinor Shaw and Mary Phillips, being one Day at her House, they told her she was a Fool to live so Miserable as she did, and therefore if she was willing, they would send something that Night that would Relieve her, and being an ignorant Woman she consented, and accordingly the same Night, two little black Things, almost like Moles came into her Bed and sucked her lower Parts, repeating the same for two or three Nights after, till she was almost frighted out of her Sences, insomuch that she was forced to send for Mr. Danks, the Minister to Pray by her several Nights, before the said Imps would leave her: She also added that she heard the said Prisoners say, that they would be Revenged on Mrs. Wise, because she would not give them some Buttermilk.

Mrs. Todd of Southwick, deposed that Charles Ireland, being a Boy of about 12

years

years of Age, was taken with strange Fitts about Christmas last, continuing so by Intervails till twelf Day last, at which time he Barked like a Dogg, and when he was Recovered and come to himself, he would Distictly describe Elinor Shaw and Mary Phillips, affirming them two to be the Authors of his Misfortunes, tho he never saw them in his Life; so that Mrs Ireland the Boy's Mother, was advised to Cork up some of his Water in a stone Bottle, fill'd full of Pins and Needles, and to Bury it under the Fire Hearth, which being done accordingly, the two said Witches could not be quiet, till they came to the said House, and desired to have the said Bottle taken up, which was not granted, till they had confesied the Matter, and promised never to do so again, but for all this the next Night but one, the said Boy was so violently Handled, that he Dyed in two Hours time; and this Womans Testimoney was confirm'd by five or six other Evidence, at the same time.

The said Witches were Try'd a third time, for Bewitching to Death Elizabeth Gorham of Glapthorn, on the 10 of February last, as also for Killing several Horses, Hogs and Sheep, being the Goods of Matthew Gorham Father of the said Child aforesaid. The Evidence against them to prove all this; was William Boss, and John Southwel; who Deposed that being Constables of the said Town,

Town, they were Charged with the said Prisoners in their Custody, who threatning them with Death, if they did not Confess, and promising them to let them go if they would Confess; after some little Whineing and Hanging about one anothers Necks, they both made this Confession.

"That living in one House together they "contracted with the Devil about a Year "ago, to sell their Souls to him, upon con- "dition, he would enable them to do what "Mischief they desired, against whom they "pleased, either in Body, Goods or Chil- "dren; upon which the same Night, they "had each of them three Imps sent them "as they were going to Bed, and at the "same instant the Devil appeared to them "in the shape of a tall black Man, and "told them, that these Imps would always "be at their Service, either to kill Man, "Woman, Child, Hog, Cow, Ship, or "any other Creature, when they pleased "to command them, provided they let 'em "Suck their Flesh every Night; which be- "ing agree'd to, the Devil came to Bed to "them both, and had Carnal Knowledge "of 'em, as if a Man, only with this diffe- "rence instead of being Warm, his Em- "braces was very Cold and unpleasant. "And that the next Morning they sent "four of their Imps to Kill two Horses of "one John Webb of the said Town of Glap-

thorn,

" thorn, because he openly said the were
" Witches, and accordingly the Horses
" were found Dead in a Pond the same
" Day; and two days after this they Kill'd
" four great Hoggs after the same manner
" belonging to Matthew Gorham, because
" he said they both look'd like Witches,
" and not thinking this Revenge sufficient,
" the next day after they sent two Imps a
" piece to destroy his Child being a little
" Girle of about four Years of Age, which
" was done accordingly in 24 Hours time
" notwithstanding all the Skill and Endea-
" vour of able Doctors to preserve it: They
" further confessed that if the said Imps
" were not constantly imploy'd to do Mis-
" chief they had not their Healths, but
" when they were imploy'd they were very
" Healthful and Well. They further added,
" that the said Imps did often tell them in
" the Night-time, in a hollow whispering
" low Voice which they plainly understood,
" that they should never feel Hell Tormets,
" and that they had Kill'd a Horse and
" two Cows of one Widdow Broughton be-
" cause she deny'd them some Peascods last
" year, for which they had also struck her
" Daughter with Lameness, which would
" never be cured as long as either of them
" Liv'd, and accordingly she has continued
" so ever since.

The abovesaid Evidence further deposed that

that having thus extorted the said Confession from the Prisoners, they persuaded them to set their Hands to it, which was done accordingly, tho with very much difficulty, upon which the said Confession was produced in Court, and the Witness's to it Examin'd, who all deposed upon Oath, that the said Confession was made in their Hearing, and that they saw the said reputed Witches set their Marks to it, in the presence of ten Witnesses.

Upon which the said Prisoners, were desired by the Court to declare, whether they own'd the said Confession and the Marks thereunto Affixed or nor, to which they both answered in the Negative, and thereupon made such a Howling, and lamentable Noise as never was heard before, to the amazment of the whole Court, and deny'd every particular that was laid to their Charge; but the Court having heard the matter of Fact so positively asserted against them by several Eeidences, and above all by their own Confessions, that after having given a Larned Charge to the Jury relating to ever particular Circumstance, they brought them in both Guilty of willful Murther and Witchcraft, and accordingly the next Day the Court was pleased to pronounce sentence of Death upon them, that is to say, To be Hang'd till they are almost Dead, and then surrounded with Faggots, Pitch, and other Combustable matter, which being set on Fire, their Bodies are to be consumed to Ashes.

As soon as they are Executed, I will send you an Account of their Behaviour and last Dying Speeches

March 8 1705 Yours RALPH DAVIS.

Licensed according to Order.

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